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Official Business



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Please help me keep you
up-to-date on issues.
Just go to
<http://www.costa.house.gov/>
and sign up for my
e-newsletters.



Become Part of Jim Costa's Fight Against Crime

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

- Please send me more information about:
___ Crime Victims
___ Fighting Meth
- Please email me updates on crime fighting and other issues important
to the Valley's quality of life.
- Here are some ideas on other things Congress should be doing to
fight crime:

Congressman Jim Costa's Report on Fighting Crime.

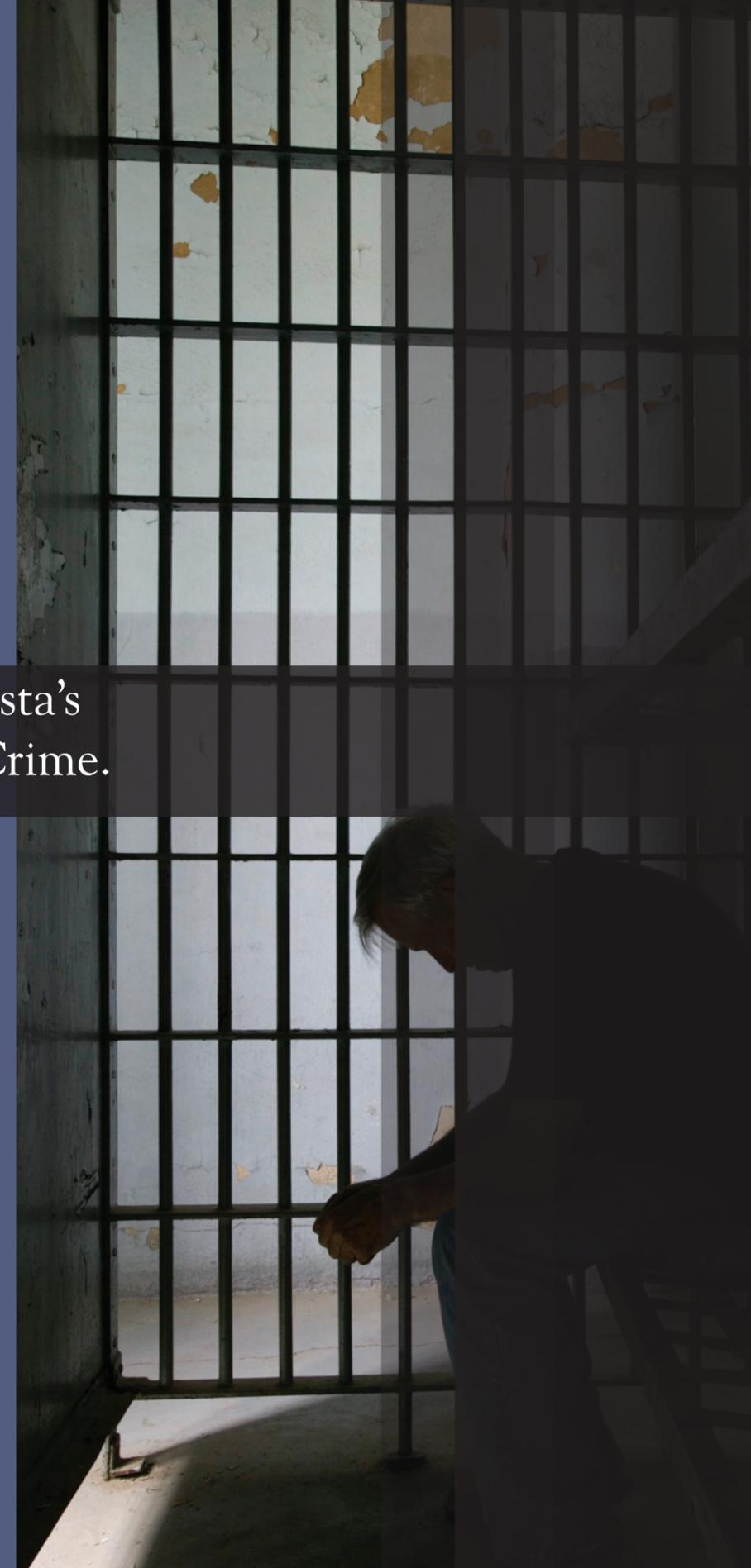
December, 2009

With all of the other issues now facing Congress, Jim Costa has not lost sight of the need to combat crime and keep local residents safe.

You can see it in his support for law enforcement and in his work against the meth epidemic in our Valley.

And you can see it in his leadership on victims' rights issues.

This report outlines some of his efforts. If you have questions, please contact him at <http://www.costa.house.gov/> or at one of his offices listed in this mailer.



Congressman Jim Costa's Report on Fighting Crime.

Methamphetamines

Meth crime costs us billions in medical costs, motor accidents, violent crime, and fire damage.

We pay for courts, jails, emergency rooms, public safety and social workers who all deal with the consequences.

There is also the human impact of ruined lives, drug-exposed newborns and teen suicide.

All too often, the Valley must also suffer through the crime, violence and toxic contamination linked to this drug plague.

Attacking the problem

Jim Costa has worked to improve programs for combating meth production and distribution, targeting drug "hot spots" and improving cleanups.

This year, he supported major funding for the COPS program to put more officers on the street and provide badly needed support for the fight against meth traffic and other public safety activities.

He knows that underfunding COPS will stifle local policing efforts.

That is also why he backed grant programs to help local law enforcement agencies and supported the measure to fund worthy programs including helping rural law enforcement combat drug-related crime.

Victims' rights

Costa is co-founder and co-chairman of Congress' first Victims' Rights Caucus – a bi-partisan group of lawmakers committed to standing up for crime victims' interests, rights and needs.

The Caucus he helped start also is a link to national victim assistance programs that enhance public education initiatives and communication.

In addition, Costa is an original co-sponsor of a measure to safeguard the Crime Victims Fund to make sure its financial resources are not diverted away from the task of taking the burden off of victims for financial costs associated with crime, such as unreimbursed medical expenses, lost wages and funeral costs. This vital fund is sustained through the collection of criminal fines, not taxpayer dollars.

Similarly, he has been a leader in efforts to appropriate funds so that the Violence Against Women Act could be renewed, ensuring that national sexual assault and domestic violence programs have adequate funding to continue their efforts in our communities.

And, on behalf of those parents who have gone through the indescribable grief of losing a son or daughter to homicide, Costa is fighting to make sure they can claim their child as a dependent for up to 5 years, as a small gesture to ease the burden of funeral expenses.

